

Standard Golf and Miniature Golf

COVID-19 Guidance

Summary of January 2021 changes:

- **New Phase 1 and Phase 2 requirements for indoor practices and tournaments for standard golf.**
- **Some previous requirements regarding touchable surfaces eliminated.**
- **Safety and health requirements updated to current language at the end of the document.**

Included here:

- Standard golf
- Miniature golf and putt putt golf

Not included here:

- Disc golf (Un-staffed disc golf courses function similar to trails or playground facilities and are regulated by local governments at this time.)

All golf facilities must adopt a written procedure for employee safety and customer interaction that is at least as strict as this procedure and complies with the safety and health requirements below, including recreation-specific guidance.

Standard Golf

All Phases:

Any course planning to reopen must comply with the following:

1. Utilize on-line or phone tee time reservation systems to pre-pay and limit interactions where possible. Utilizing non-cash payments and credit cards to limit interactions is recommended.
2. Maintain a log of all customers, including contact information. For purposes of this log, customers are not obligated to provide their information, and the business should not condition service on a customer's willingness to do so.
3. Normal golf groups are permitted, although strict social distancing from members in other households is still required.
4. Regularly sanitize frequently touched surfaces including employee used equipment.
5. Equipment rentals, including carts, must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each use.
6. Outdoor golf course driving ranges and practice areas, as well as standalone driving ranges, are functionally equivalent to golf courses and may be utilized if the operation meets the same standards that apply to golf courses. Operators must ensure their procedures incorporate the safety measures set forth in this document.
7. Modify driving range hitting areas to ensure a minimum 10-foot separation between players.
8. Install signage to discourage group congregation, or to limit numbers of people in a certain area of the club or pro shop. Golfers will be reminded to be especially mindful of social distancing in the parking lot, and around tees and greens.
9. Ask golfers to leave the golf course after playing to eliminate congestion/gathering on the property or in the parking lot.

Other Facility Operations

10. Increase the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout the clubhouse area and check-in areas.
11. Ensure restrooms are frequently cleaned and appropriately sanitized throughout the day.
12. Food and beverage service subject to current regional guidance restrictions. Pro shops and retail subject to current regional retail guidance restrictions.
13. Outdoor lessons are permitted as long as the instructor and student(s) follow the safety measures set forth in this document. Small group clinics are permitted outdoors based upon the practice facility space available to ensure physical distancing.
14. Caddies are permitted subject to other rules in this document regarding golf carts and social distancing.

Phase 1

- Indoor practice facilities are allowed. Individuals may use the facilities for no longer than 45 minutes at a time. One-on-one instruction and group instruction classes limited to 45 minutes at a time. Face coverings are required at all times. All facilities must calculate allowable customer occupancy by dividing the room size or available floor space by 500 square feet per person.
- For golf tournaments, as long as an event organizer can have protocols in place to ensure no large gatherings (ex. scoreboard area, clubhouse, registration, etc.), organizations can conduct a golf event. Any event must comply with all other provisions of this document. The tournament must be conducted via normal tee times. Shotgun starts are prohibited.

Phase 2

- Indoor practice facilities are allowed. Occupancy of the facility may not exceed 25 percent of the fire code occupancy rating.
- For golf tournaments maximum 200 people allowed at competitions, including spectators.

Miniature Golf and Putt Putt Golf

All Phases:

1. Putters and balls must be disinfected after each use.
2. Group play is limited to five participants per group. Groups should be staggered so that social distancing and facility occupancy limits are maintained.
3. Regularly sanitize frequently touched surfaces including employee used equipment.
4. Install signage to discourage group congregation and to limit numbers of people in a certain area of the facility. Golfers will be reminded to be especially mindful of social distancing in the parking lot, and around tees.
5. Ask players to leave the facility after playing to eliminate congestion and gathering on the property or in the parking lot.
6. Provide hand-sanitizing stations throughout the facility, so that players have easy access to hand sanitizer during play.
7. Ensure restrooms are frequently cleaned and appropriately sanitized throughout the day.
8. Food and beverage service subject to current regional guidance restrictions. Pro shops and retail subject to current regional retail guidance restrictions.

Phase 1

- Outdoors normal golf groups are permitted, although strict social distancing from members in other households is still required.
- Indoor facilities are allowed. Facial coverings required at all times. Individuals may use the facilities for no longer than 45 minutes at a time. All facilities must calculate allowable customer occupancy by dividing the room size or available floor space by 500 square feet per person.

Phase 2

- Indoor facilities are allowed. Occupancy of the facility may not exceed 25 percent of the fire code occupancy rating.

Safety and Health Requirements all phases

Stay home when sick or if a close contact of someone with COVID-19

Staff and participants should be required to stay home if they feel unwell, show any signs of COVID-19, or are a close contact of a confirmed case. Screening should consider [symptoms listed by the CDC](#). Any person with symptoms of COVID-19 or who is a close contact of someone with confirmed COVID-19 should not be allowed to participate and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.

Masks

Masks required indoors for staff and participants at all times.

Physical Distance

A minimum of 6 feet of physical distance must be maintained between staff and clients at all times where possible. This distance should be increased when clients are engaged in high-intensity aerobic activities. A minimum of six feet of distance must be maintained among participants when not engaged in fitness and training activities.

Hygiene

Staff and participants to practice good hygiene including washing their hands frequently and covering their sneezes and coughs. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after practice, especially after touching shared objects or blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains 60-95% alcohol content. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they are dry.

Provide handwashing or hand sanitizing stations at training and contest locations.

Limit the use of locker rooms to handwashing and restroom use only. Showers should not be used due to potential spread of aerosolized droplets. If use of locker rooms for changing is necessary, maximize ventilation and use tape, spots, or cones to signal 6 feet of distance for participants who need to change. If locker rooms are used cleaning protocols must be included in the facility safety plan. Limit occupancy of the locker rooms to avoid crowding.

Cleaning

Clean high touch surfaces and disinfect shared equipment before and after each use. Ensure restrooms are cleaned and disinfected regularly. Current CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection for COVID-19 states that disinfectants should be registered by the EPA for use against the COVID-19. Find the current list here: [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\)](#). Disinfectants based on hydrogen peroxide or alcohol are safer than harsher chemicals. The University of Washington has a [handout with options for safer cleaning and disinfecting products that work well against COVID-19](#).

Ventilation

Ventilation is important to have good indoor air quality. Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly. Increase air circulation and ventilation as much as possible by opening windows and doors. Offer more outside time, open windows often and adjust mechanical ventilation systems to bring in as much outside air as possible. Increase filters to MERV 13 if the HVAC can accommodate. Use of fans for cooling is acceptable. In indoor spaces, fans should only be used when windows or doors are open to the outdoors in order to circulate indoor and outdoor air. They should blow away from people.

Outdoors locations are preferred to indoors locations, and should be utilized to the greatest extent possible to allow for maximum fresh air circulation and social distancing. Outdoor temporary structures may be used. Outdoor structures, in order to be considered outdoors, should have no more than two walls to provide appropriate ventilation unless they meet this ventilation requirement; Structures can have three walls if another opening exists that is large enough to create cross ventilation.

Records and Contact Tracing

Keep contact information for staff and participants to assist with contact tracing in the event of a possible exposure. Contact information must be kept on file for 28 days after each class or use of the facilities.

Employees

Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main Labor & Industries COVID-19 requirements to protect workers. COVID-19 workplace and safety requirements can be found [here](#).